

Presentation

For quite some time we have discussed the need to publish a theological journal of the School of Theology of the Methodist Church – UMESP. In 2000, as coordinator of EDITEO, I formally presented to the Dean and to Editorial Council the proposal to publish this academic journal. The Dean, at that time, Prof. Clovis Pinto de Castro, as well as the entire Editorial Council immediately supported the idea, and, in a short time, we were ready to publish the first edition.

During the process, the question of the name of the Journal was discussed. It was then that we sought to recover a history and tradition of service that the School of Theology offers to the Church. With this story in the editorial of the “first” number, the current Journal *Caminhando* has a history that returns to the year 1982, when, by a decision of the National Area of the Methodist Church, and because of the initiative of professors in the area of Theology, the publication was born, whose primary focus was the formation of ministers. For various reasons, under the leadership of the National Area of the Church, the Journal ceased publication in its seventh edition.

At the end of 2000, we dialogued with the Church regarding our intention to publish a Theological Journal and that it would be very significant if we could return to the trajectory of the Journal *Caminhando* – with a new editorial policy, but still in the same spirit. It was thus, that with the agreement and encouragement of the National Area of the Methodist Church, and the support of the Dean and Editorial Council of the School of Theology, that, in July of 2001, number 8 of the new Journal *Caminhando* was published.

The success of the initiative can be verified by the regular publication of the Journal that initially was annual, but, because of the volume and quantity of contributions that we received, became each semester, beginning with number 9. Since 2001, we have published six numbers, and the editors

are always debating regarding the excessive number of excellent texts and pages.

Beginning in 2004, the Journal received a new editor, with whom I have the pleasure to present and pass on to this editorial tradition. Professor Helmut Renders is a shrewd and wise researcher, and certainly will have a great deal to contribute to the theological production of the School of Theology. We remind the new editor of the words of Bishop Isaac Alberto Rodrigues Aço, written for the first number of the Journal, in July of 1982, the same which Professor Clóvis repeated in the eighth number: ‘as such we have, from now forward, an open forum’. From the first number, the Journal has continued to be an open forum, and this is the great challenge for the new editor and the writers who present themselves in the Journal *Caminhando*.

May these pages continue to be open and maintain the journey.

Luiz Carlos Ramos
Editor 2001 - 2003

With the restructuring of the editorial area of the School of Theology, I was invited to be the new editor of the Journal.

First, as a team, we want to thank Professor Reverend Luiz Carlos Ramos for his efforts and editorial care since the rebirth of the Journal in 2001. We also want to thank him for his willingness to help with editorial and organizational questions, even though this was a new institutional task, in the area of pedagogical coordination of the School of Theology, which is now quickly growing. Last but not least, Professor Luiz was responsible for two thirds of the articles of this edition.

My decision to accept the task was aided by the fact that I can become a part of a very experienced editorial team,

which includes Professor Hélerson Bastos Rodrigues (general editor), Glória Maria D. L. P de Lima (editorial secretary) and Professor Otoniel Luciano Ribeiro (administrator). And also with the Editorial Council, which is composed of eight persons, and headed by our Dean, Rui de Souza Josgrilberg.

Those who know about this publication will only perceive small changes. We are using standard formats for a scientific publication. Statistically, we are opting for ease of reading. In this sense, each page includes basic information regarding the Journal. In the next edition we will have abstracts, summaries and key words in two languages. We hope that this will further contribute to the investment of our authors, and the School of Theology, in the construction and communication of knowledge.

Respecting the tradition of the Journal, the various articles contemplate a variety of themes and perspectives. Wesley Pereira (The Word of God in the New Testament) investigates the relation between the speech of God, Jesus as logos and the scriptures. João Santos (O “slave” and the “woman”: Deconstruction of historical tradition and the conscience of identity) closes the Biblical section with an analysis of Genesis 24, seeking to overcome the hiding of the anonymous persons in the text.

The Theology and History section begins with Cláudio Ribeiro (For a Brazilian Methodist Ecclesiology). He examines the path of a Methodist ecclesiology in dialogue with voices from the past (pietism) and more recently (the Theology of Liberation). His interest is in contemporary practice as the focus in the local church. José Carlos de Souza (The other Muslim Jesus) is based on the book “The Muslim Jesus” by Tanif Khalidi, and shares with us a singular appreciation of Jesus in the Muslim environment, valuable memories and tools for encounter between religions. Helmut Renders (The social role and subjectivity in the birth of Methodism.) relates the debate regarding subjects in complex societies with the dynamic of the

birth of Methodism, and introduces the contribution of Miroslav Volf with regard to this conversation.

Blanches de Paula (Faith as support in crises) opens the Pastoral section with an explanation of and application of the theses of Erik Erikson and James Fowler. Personal crises are seen as integral parts of the stages of faith in their contribution to personal maturation. Josias Pereira (Citizenship: the best age) helps us hear the voices of a growing group in the Brazilian population. With humor, he interprets the third stage of life as the *best age* and points out the contributions of this group to society. Luiz Carlos Ramos (The Homiletical Practice of John Wesley) familiarizes us with the text “The Principles and Practices of the Preaching of John Wesley” of R. Heitzenrater, confronts the preacher John Wesley with his own principles, and relates these observations to our own days.

In the Humanities section, Éltton de Oliveira Nunes (The pornographic Angel) studies the role of religious agents in the works of Nelson Rodrigues, in terms of desire, sin, punishment and redemption. Saulo Baptista (Religion and Sociology) reminds us of the diverse sociological perspectives of religions and their “modern” origin, in order to establish a more reconciliatory relation between sociology and theology.

The text offered by Magali Cunha (Diaconal ministry and the challenges of being faithful to the tradition of contextualization) presents the results of a recent consultation regarding Diaconal Ministries in the Methodist Church.

We wish you a rich reading, and invite our readers to enter in contact with the authors in order to together create knowledge and deepen our practice.

Helmut Renders

Editor